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FOR PRESS:

MOVEMENT OF DEFENCE AND SERVICE DEPARTMENTS TO CANBERRA

Statement by the Prime Minister

The first stage in the movement of the Defence and Service Departments to Canberra had been completed with quite remarkable efficiency, the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, said to-day.

"A movement of this nature cannot help but be accompanied by a legion of problems", Mr. Menzies said.

"Apart from the purely physical problems of housing the individuals concerned and providing working space and facilities, there is the necessity for avoiding any disruption in the work of the Departments.

"That this has been achieved in all aspects with a minimum of disturbance and complaints is a matter for congratulation for all those who took part in the move.

"I have received a report from the Minister for the Interior (Mr. Freeth) showing just how successfully the move was carried out. I attach a copy."

CANBERRA, A.C.T.  
17th February, 1959.